

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN PFOR US PO IMF
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. IMF: PRESS CONTINUES TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL'S ONGOING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IMF. WEEKLY CENTER-RIGHT "TEMPO"
APRIL 13 PUBLISHED TOUGH FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL WHICH SAID
PORTUGAL HAD NO ALTERNATIVE TO ACCEPTING IMF AGREEMENT
AND BUCKLING DOWN TO LONG PERIOD -- "TEN YEARS" -- OF
AUSTERITY AND ECONOMIC RECUPERATION. EDITORIAL STATED:
"...PORTUGAL HAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO SIGNING AN AGREE-
MENT WITH THE IMF. WE CAN BE NO PROUDER THAN WERE ITALY
AND ENGLAND AND WE ARE IN PRACTICALLY THE SAME CIRCUM-
STANCES IN WHICH PERU FOUND ITSELF AFTER THE CRIMINAL
ADVENTURES OF ITS MILITARY RULERS....WITHOUT OUR OWN
RESOURCES -- NOT EVEN VIABLE MINERAL EXPLORATIONS OR A
PROSPEROUS AGRICULTURE -- WE HAVE NO MEANS OF MAINTAIN-
ING THE PRIDE WHICH CHARACTERIZED MANY PHASES OF
OUR HISTORY. THIS IS THE TIME OF BITTERNESS, HUMILITY
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02821 131702Z

AND WE HOPE NOT OF HUNGER. IN SUCH CONDITIONS, IT DOES
NOT SEEM REALISTIC TO US TO STATE THAT WE CAN LIVE WITH-
OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF, AN INSTITUTION WHICH WAS
CREATED PRECISELY TO HELP IN SUCH SITUATIONS...."
"TEMPO" BACKPAGE ALSO CARRIED AN ARTICLE WHICH INTIMATED
THE GOP WAS SHOWING A PUBLIC ATTITUDE OF STATED RESISTANCE
TO SOME IMF-PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH

CONTRASTED WITH THE GOP TECHNICIANS' KNOWN BELIEFS IN FAVOR OF AN EARLY COMPLETION OF A GOP-IMF ACCORD. ARTICLE CITED REPORTS THAT GOP HAD REJECTED AN IMF PROPOSAL FOR LARGE ONE-STEP ESCUDO DEVALUATION AND PUSHED INSTEAD FOR INCREASING MONTHLY DOWNWARD FLOAT FROM 1.5 PERCENT TO 1.7 PERCENT. SAME ARTICLE SAID GOP "SEEMED TO BE RESISTING AN IMF PROPOSAL" AS TO LEVEL THE INTEREST RATES WOULD BE RAISED. RIGHTIST "O DIA" APRIL 13 FRONT-PAGE, TWO-LINE BANNER WAS "AMARO DA COSTA DEFINED GDS POSITION REGARDING IMF NEGOTIATIONS: WE WANT AN AGREEMENT BUT NOT JUST ANY AGREEMENT."

2. LAJES BASE NEGOTIATIONS: "A CAPITAL" OF APRIL 12 PUBLISHED A PAGE-THREE REPORT ON A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY REIS LEITE, AZOREAN REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE. PAPER REPORTED THAT LEITE SAID, "THE GREATER PART OF U.S.-AZOREAN INVESTMENT TO BE MADE UNDER TERMS OF THE LAJES BASE ACCORD WILL BE IN THE TRANSPORT AND ENERGY SECTOR." HE SAID U.S. FUNDS WILL BE USED TO CONSTRUCT OR IMPROVE PORTS IN TERCEIRA (PRAIA DA VITORIA), SANTA MARIA, PICA AND GRACIOSA AND AIRPORTS OF PICO, SAO JORGE AND GRACIOSA. HE ADDED THAT AMERICAN FUNDS WOULD BE USED FOR GEOTHERMAL PROJECTS ON SAO MIGUEL, TERCEIRA, FAIAL AND PICO. HE TERMED "PREMATURE" A RECENTLY REPORTED STATEMENT BY AZOREAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MONJARDINO TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LISBON 02821 131702Z

EFFECT THAT U.S. AID WOULD BE USED TO CREATE AN AZOREAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

3. "NEUTRON BOMB": COMMENTARY BY RUI CARTAXANA, PARTICIPANT IN RECENT ICA-SPONSORED NATO ORIENTATION TOUR, IN PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA" APRIL 11 RIDICULED THOSE WHO HAVE CONDEMNED NEUTRON WEAPON WHILE REMAINING SILENT ABOUT OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS; HE SAID IF YOU OPPOSE ONE YOU OPPOSE ALL. FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE WAS GIVEN APRIL 13 TO BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. "DELIVERATELY REFUSED TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ITS PRIVILEGED POSITION" IN ITS POSTPONEMENT OF PRODUCTION DECISION ON NEUTRON WEAPON. LEADING CIRCULATION, PRO-GOP "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" FRONT-PAGE REPORT SAID BELGIAN LEADER "SAID OPENLY WHAT MANY EUROPEANS HAD BEEN SAYING IN PRIVATE."

4. U.S. INFLATION: COLUMNIST MANUEL RODRIGUES WROTE IN APRIL 13 "O DIA" THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC POLICIES "TOGETHER SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO BRAKE THE DECLINE OF THE DOLLAR....CARTER WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT BATTLE WHICH COULD COST HIM IN TERMS OF

POPULARITY. BUT THIS IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE SITUATION FACING MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS."
JORDAN

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